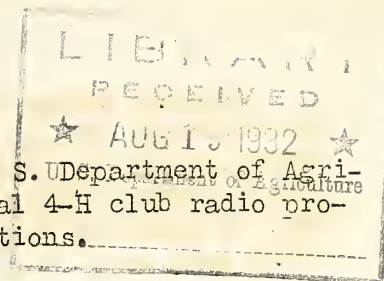


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WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE 4-H CLUBS



A radio talk by Reuben Brigham, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered Saturday, August 6, 1932, in the national 4-H club radio program, broadcast by a network of 59 associate NBC radio stations.

Hello boys and girls and friends:

I have good news for you - news that should put heart into us all - news of what 4-H club members are doing to help themselves and their families through present difficulties. And this is the kind of news that comes to me every day and from every part of the country. Why? Because as 4-H club members you make it your business to find out what to do and then, do it. You do things for yourselves. You do things for your community. This has been the big idea in 4-H club work from the very beginning - to find out what to do; then, do it.

Last month, Leroy Getz of Pennsylvania told us how he succeeded in making money from potatoes even at low prices. Here's a story something like Leroy's. It's about 48 club boys and girls who are raising pigs in Mitchell County, Kansas. Last year these boys and girls marketed 58 pigs. They fed these pigs in the right way. They kept them clean and thrifty. They planned ahead to put them on the market at the right weight and at the right time to make the most profit. For their extra care and planning these club members made three to six dollars per pig over the average price received in their market during the season. Not bad, was it? These Kansas boys and girls found out what to do; then, did it.

A few minutes ago, Ruth Bowman of Iowa told us what it means to be a 4-H club girl to be able to prepare and serve meals that are nourishing and enjoyable and do not cost too much. When one girl can do this, it makes a world of difference in the home life of her family. When a half million 4-H club girls do it - it makes a big difference to the whole country.

In St. Francis County, Arkansas, there are three sisters, Mollie, Blanche and Grace Stewart. Mollie is 17; Blanche, 14; and Grace, 11. They are all 4-H club members. Sometime ago they lost their mother, so they are the homekeepers of their family. And, they know their business. Last year Mollie set the record for the 4-H club girls in her county. She canned 650 quarts of fruits and vegetables. That is a lot of food, but the other day at a meeting of her club, Mollie reported only 3 of the 650 jars still on the pantry shelves. These three girls are planning to can a good bit more than they canned last year to help out relatives in town. It's a way they have in Arkansas and it's the 4-H club way everywhere - to do for yourself and your family and to do something, also, for your neighbors. They think it's not good that anyone should go hungry.

That is how 4-H club members in New Hampshire feel about it, too. So New Hampshire's canning club members are saving above their home needs 700 bushels of vegetables and a thousand jars of canned vegetables and fruits. These will go to the unemployed in their communities this winter. This isn't a tremendous amount, but it shows that 4-H boys and girls east and west, north and south - nearly a million strong - are busy finding out what needs to be done; then, doing it.

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In most States big crowds of 4-H boys and girls come every year to the State agricultural college to attend a week's short course. In Nevada, this year, the State extension service found it could not afford the usual expense of holding a short course. What did these Nevada boys and girls do? Stay at home? No! They went to work and in one way or another raised enough money to have a short course and a good one. Fine work, Nevada!

Whatcom County in Washington State has some mighty enterprising boys and girls. This year the Whatcom County Fair Association decided that it could not afford to hold a fair. So the 650 club boys and girls of the county undertook the job. On September 1 and 2, at the fairgrounds near Lynden, they will show what they can do. On these same two days, September 1 and 2, way across the continent, the 4-H club boys and girls of Middlesex County, Connecticut, will hold a fair, too. The Connecticut boys and girls are old hands at the fair game. This is their tenth year. Good luck, Connecticut and Washington!

In closing I send warm greetings to the 4-H club boys and girls assembled this week at the University of Maryland for their short course. Fifteen years ago I was in charge of boys' club work in Maryland. I remember well the time when we had less members enrolled in the whole State than now attend the short course each year. I am proud of the record you Maryland boys and girls have made.

One last word to you all. Keep up the good work. Find what needs to be done; then, do it. And luck be with you!